

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration Conjointe Des Representants De La Republique Democratique Du Congo Et De L'Alliance Fleuve Congo/Mouvement Du 23 Mars (AFC/M23)
Date	23 Apr 2025
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Congo Civil Wars (1996 -)

The overthrow of the long-term dictator Mobutu Sese Seko by a rebel Tutsi army backed by Uganda and Rwanda in 1997 acted as a catalyst for a war with regional dimensions, mainly fought in the eastern Kivu provinces. The conflict escalated in 1998, when President Laurent Kabila, then backed by Zimbabwean and Angolan troops, ordered Rwanda and Uganda to leave. After Kabila's assassination in 2001, his son Joseph took over the presidency and won in the 2006 democratic elections.

In the eastern provinces, Tutsi-led militias, mainly organised in the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), fought the remnants of the Rwandan Hutu force FDLR, with further involvement of Rwandan and Ugandan troops. Other regionally operating militia groups, like the Lord's Resistance Army from Northern Uganda, the so-called Mai Mai groups or guerrilla outfits like the March 23 Movement (M23) further contributed, and still contribute, to the complexity of the situation in eastern DRC.

Following Joseph Kabila's departure in 2019, his successor Félix Tshisekedi faced renewed instability as the M23 rebel group, dormant since 2013, resumed operations in late 2021 with substantial Rwandan support. In January 2025, M23 forces backed by Rwandan troops captured the regional capital Goma in the most serious escalation since the Second Congo War. This prompted U.S. mediation under President Trump, leading to talks in Qatar in March 2025 and a preliminary peace agreement signed in Washington on June 27, 2025. The Washington Accords were formally signed by Presidents Tshisekedi and Kagame on December 4, 2025, committing Rwanda to withdraw troops and cease M23 support while the DRC pledged to neutralize the FDLR and establish regional economic integration with significant U.S. commercial involvement. However, fighting continues as of late 2025, with both sides accused of violating commitments.

Close

Congo Civil Wars (1996 -)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory

Peace process	DRC: the Doha Track for Eastern DRC
Parties	For the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the peace talks with AFC/M23, Papy MBUYI KANGUVU, Head of Delegation Congo River Alliance/March 23 Movement (AFC/M23)
Third parties	-
Description	This joint declaration establishes a commitment between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the M23 rebel movement to pursue peaceful resolution of their conflict through dialogue facilitated by Qatar. Both parties agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities, rejection of hate speech, and commitment to constructive dialogue addressing the root causes of conflict in eastern DRC. The agreement serves as a framework for future peace talks while calling on local communities, religious leaders, and media to support the peace process.

Agreement document	DC_250523_Declaration Conjointe des Représentants de la République Démocratique du Congo_EN (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	DC_250523_Declaration Conjointe des Représentants de la République Démocratique du Congo (opens in new tab)
Source of document	https://minbane.wordpress.com/2025/04/24/https-wp-me-p1xtjg-rgc-2/ https://www.facebook.com/congonewsactu/photos/d%C3%A9claration-conjointe-des-representants-de-la-republique-democratique-du-congo-e/1363229051994108/?_rdr

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society The two parties call on the Congolese people, the religious chiefs and the media to support and spread this message of hope and peace.

Traditional/religious leaders The two parties call on the Congolese people, the religious chiefs and the media to support and spread this message of hope and peace.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
By mutual agreement, the two parties reaffirm their commitment in favour of an immediate cessation of hostilities, the unequivocal rejection of any hate or intimidation speech, and call on all local communities to respect these commitments.
The two parties call on the Congolese people, the religious chiefs and the media to support and spread this message of hope and peace.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	No specific mention.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	No specific mention.
Pastoralist/nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.
Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
The representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the AFC/M23 commit to immediately abide by these commitments during the entire duration of the talks and until their conclusion.
Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
After frank and constructive discussions, the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the AFC/M23 agreed to work towards the realisation of a truce that should allow for the establishment of an effective ceasefire.
By mutual agreement, the two parties reaffirm their commitment in favour of an immediate cessation of hostilities, the unequivocal rejection of any hate or intimidation speech, and call on all local communities to respect these commitments.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.
